



Prevalence of food insecurity in a Greenlandic community and the importance of social, economic and environmental stressors

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Year: 2010
Journal: International Journal of Circumpolar Health. 69 (3): 285-303

Abstract:

Objectives. Characterize and examine the prevalence of food insecurity in Qeqertarsuaq, Greenland, and identify stressors affecting the food system. **Study design.** A mixed-methods study using quantitative food security surveys and semi-structured interviews. **Methods.** Food security surveys (nEuro Surveillance (Bulletin Europeen Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin)61) were conducted with a random sample of 6% of Qeqertarsuaq's population. Semi-structured interviews (nEuro Surveillance (Bulletin Europeen Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin)75) allowed participants to describe in their own words their experience of food insecurity and permitted in-depth examination of determinants. Key informant interviews were used to provide context to local perspectives. **Results.** Prevalence of food insecurity (8%) is low. However, interviews reveal a more nuanced picture, with women, adults aged 55+, and non-hunters reporting constrained access to Greenlandic foods. Barriers restricting traditional food access include changing sea ice conditions, reduced availability of some species, high costs of hunting and purchasing food, tightening food sharing networks, and hunting and fishing regulations. **Conclusions.** While the Qeqertarsuaq food system is relatively secure, the research highlights susceptibility to social, economic and environmental stressors which may become more prevalent in the future. (Int J Circumpolar Health 2010; 69(3):285-303)

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Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Food/Water Security

Food/Water Security: Fisheries, Livestock Productivity

Geographic Feature: 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Arctic

Geographic Location: 

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Non-U.S. North America

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Inuit

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: 

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content